

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJ: CONTINUED CRITICISM OF GOA

REF: A. BA 2030; B. BA 1753

1. MRS. PERONS MEETING WITH FREJULI LEADERS ON APRIL 2 (SEE REF A) APPEARS TO HAVE GONE ABOUT AS EXPECTED. THERE WERE NO REAL FIREWORKS, BUT FRONDIZI DID CRITICIZE GOVT'S HANDLING OF ECONOMY AND QUESTION OF PRESIDENT'S DETERIORATING IMAGE WAS RAISED. IN LATTER REGARD, SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS SAID TO HAVE POINTED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTROVERSAIL CEREMONY AT ALTAR OF THE FATHERLAND (SEE REF B) AS THE KIND OF ACTION WHICH WAS BRINGING DISCREDIT TO TH PRESIDENT. THIS WAS OF COURSE POINTED AT LOPEZ REGA AND HE THEN SAID TO HAVE INSISTED THAT THE CEREMONY HAD ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED TO THE FULL SATISFACTION OF THE CATHOLIC HIERARCH. (NOTE: THIS IS NOT WHAT WE HEAR FROM THE IERARCHY). SUBSEQUENTLY, WHILE LOPEZ REGA WAS OUT OF THEROOM, MRS. PERON REPORTEDLY STOUTLY INSISTED THAT SHE WAS THE PRESIDENT AND THAT NO ONE (I.E. LOPEZ REGA) TOLD HER WHAT TO DO.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, MRS. PERON SUGGESTED THAT SAME GROUP GET TOGETHER EVERY MONTH.

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3. WHILE CRITICISM EMANATING FROM FREJULI GROUP WAS LESS THAN BITING, PERONIST LEGISLATORS OF POLITICAL WING OF MOVEMENT REPORTEDLY SENT STRONGLY-WORDED SECRET DOCUMENT TO LASTIRI SAME DAY. IN IT ACCORDING TO PRO-PERONIST MAYORIA (WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS COPY OF THE DOCUMENT), THEY (A) EXPRESS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS PRESENT POLITICAL COURSE, (B) CRITICIZE CERTAIN FIGURES IN THE GOVT., (C) POINT TO THE ABSENCE OF ANY SORT OF COHERENT DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP IN CERTAIN AREAS OF GOVERNMENT, AND (D) DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE REORGANIZATION OF THE MUSTICIALISTA PARTY IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE ILLS NOTED ABOVE. APPARENTLY, LEGISLATORS HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO ADDRESS DOCUMENT TO MRS. PERON (AS PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY), BUT DECIDED INSTEAD TO HAND IT TO LASTIRI FIRST (AS THE VICE PRESIDENT); IF HE DOES NOT GIVE THEM A SATISFACTORY ANSWER WITHIN A FEW DAYS, THEY MAY GO DIRECTLY TO MRS. PERON.

4. COMMENT: CRITICISM FROM POLITICAL WING IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING, COMING AS IT DOES JUST PRIOR TO MRS. PERON'S MEETING WITH LABOR LEADER (APRIL 4 AT 6:00 PM).
HILL

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